

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on January 20, 2000 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
JoAnn Bunten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mack Smith, Executive Secretary, Kansas Board of Mortuary Arts
Pam Scott, Executive Director, Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Assn.
Ellen Piekalkiewicz, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas
Kermit George, Executive Director, High Plains Mental Health Center, Hays
Clyde Graeber, nominee for Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Others attending: See attached list

Introduction of bills

Mack Smith, Executive Secretary, Kansas Board of Mortuary Arts, requested the Committee introduce legislation that would authorize regulation and licensing of crematories in the state. (Attachment 1) Senator Steineger made a motion the Committee introduce the proposed legislation, seconded by Senator Salmans. The motion carried.

Pam Scott, Executive Director, Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, requested the Committee introduce legislation that would define by statute who has the right to control disposition of a decedents remains. (Attachment 2) Senator Jones made a motion the committee introduce the proposed legislation, seconded by Senator Becker. The motion carried.

Briefing on Mental Health Issues

Ellen Piekalkiewicz, Director of Policy and Planning, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, briefed the Committee on the mental health system prior to mental health reform, mental health reform objectives, and highlights of the Mental Health Reform Act as outlined in her written testimony. (Attachment 3). A report from the University of Kansas entitled, "Mental Health Reform in Kansas: Cost Containment and Quality of Life" was also distributed to the Committee. (Attachment 4)

Kermit George, Executive Director of the High Plains Mental Health Center in Hays, Kansas, spoke to the Committee about his experience and involvement with mental health issues before and after the 1990 Mental Health Reform Act. He noted that today the High Plains Mental Health Center's relationship with the state hospital is a close and collaborative push for continuity of care and treatment, and that Kansas is seen as a leader in mental health policy. (Attachment 5)

Confirmation hearing

Clyde Graeber, nominee for the position of Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, briefed the Committee on his experience with the agency since his appointment by the governor. He noted that Kansas leads the nation in awareness and testing of underground water contamination. Some of the topics discussed by the Committee included clean air and water quality standards, separation of the Department of Health and Environment into two agencies, federal inspection guidelines of nursing homes, and cooperation with the Department on Aging in regard to nursing home regulations.

Senator Steineger made a motion the Committee recommend to the full Senate the name of Clyde Graeber for Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, seconded by Senator Becker. The

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, Room 526-S,
Statehouse, at 10:00 a.m. on January 20, 2000.

motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Salmans made a motion to approve the Committee minutes of January 12 and 13, 2000, seconded by Senator Jones. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2000.